

Tab O. “Means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items”

Claims using this term: claims 3 and 6 of the '683 patent

Lawson means-plus function 9

There is no structure corresponding to this term that is linked to any portion of the specification of the '683 patent.

Lawson's Proposed Construction

Function: Processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items

Means: None.

Tab O. “Means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items”

Function

<u>Lawson’s Proposed Definition</u>	<u>Lawson’s Proposed Definition</u>
<u>Function:</u> Processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items	“means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items” (’683 patent, claims 3 & 6)

The parties agree that this is the correct function.

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means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items; and

means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

2. The electronic sourcing system of claim 1 wherein the purchase orders include data relating to a catalog number for the selected matching items.

3. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

at least two product catalogs containing data relating to items associated with the respective sources;

means for selecting the product catalogs to search;

means for searching for matching items among the selected product catalogs;

means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated source(s);

means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items; and

means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

4. The electronic sourcing system of claim 3 further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

5. The electronic sourcing system of claim 3 further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

6. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two sources;

means for searching for matching items in the database;

means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated source(s);

means for processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items; and

means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

7. An electronic sourcing system of claim 6 wherein the requisition includes matching items from at least two sources.

8. The electronic sourcing system of claim 6 wherein the purchase orders include data relating to catalog numbers.

9. The electronic sourcing system of claim 6 further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

10. The electronic sourcing system of claim 6 further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

11. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

at least two product catalogs containing data relating to items associated with the respective sources;

means for searching for matching items among the product catalogs;

means for building a requisition that includes a first matching item and a second matching item, each associated with a different source;

means for processing the requisition to generate purchase orders for the first and the second matching items; and

means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

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12. The electronic sourcing system of claim 11 wherein a first purchase order includes data relating to the first matching item.

13. The electronic sourcing system of claim 12 wherein a second purchase order includes data relating to the second matching catalog item.

14. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

data relating to items associated with at least two sources maintained so that selected data may be searched separately;

means for searching for matching items among the selected data;

means for building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated source(s);

means for processing the requisition to generate purchase orders using data relating to the selected matching items and their associated source(s); and

means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

15. The electronic sourcing system of claim 14 wherein the purchase orders use data relating to at least two sources.

16. The electronic sourcing system of claim 14 wherein the purchase orders use data relating to catalog numbers.

17. The electronic sourcing system of claim 14 further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

18. The electronic sourcing system of claim 14 further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

19. An electronic sourcing system comprising:

a database containing data relating to items associated with at least two vendors maintained so that selected portions of the database may be searched separately;

means for searching for matching items in the selected portions of the database;

means for building a requisition that includes data relating to selected matching items;

means for processing the requisition to generate purchase orders for selected matching items.

20. The electronic sourcing system of claim 19 wherein the purchase orders include data relating to vendor catalog numbers.

21. The electronic sourcing system of claim 19 further comprising means for converting data relating to a selected matching item and an associated source to data relating to an item and a different source.

22. The electronic sourcing system of claim 19 further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

23. The electronic sourcing system of claim 19 further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

24. An electronic sourcing system of claim 19 wherein the requisition includes matching items from at least two sources.

25. The electronic sourcing system of claim 24 wherein the purchase orders include data relating to the source associated with the selected matching item.

26. A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining at least two product catalogs on a database containing data relating to items associated with the respective sources;

selecting the product catalogs to search;

searching for matching items among the selected product catalogs;

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Means: Structure

<u>Lawson’s Proposed Definition</u>	<u>Lawson’s Proposed Definition</u>
<u>Means:</u> None.	<p>The figures and written description of the ’683 patent include no description of any structure linked to or associated with the function of processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items.</p> <div data-bbox="506 732 812 991" data-label="Diagram"> </div> <p>(’683 patent, Fig. 3)</p> <p>A figure disclosing a step does not describe structure and cannot serve to clearly link corresponding structure under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 6. <i>Medical Instrumentation & Diagnostic Corp. v. Elekta AB</i>, 244 F.3d 1205, 1212-23 (Fed. Cir. 2003)</p>